

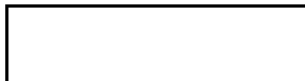
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30 September 1966

MEMORANDUM TO: Director Current Intelligence

FROM :



SUBJECT : Meeting with Howard Wriggins, NSC, 28 September 1966.

1. Wriggins phoned last week requesting that I come down and discuss the Syrian situation. I met with him for about an hour prior to the IRG meeting that afternoon.

2. I laid out my ideas on the country, emphasizing the historical influences on its people's attitudes, especially the views of the present leaders, and emphasized the uninterrupted drive toward leftist radicalism. I pointed out the minimal U.S. interests involved in Syria and downplayed the possibility of a Communist takeover.

3. Wriggins then probed for possible consequences of a "nationalist Marxist" regime on Syria's neighbors and how these would affect its neighbors -- Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey, countries in which U.S. interests would be involved. I stated that Syria was and would remain in such a chaotic state that it would have little time for effective meddling, especially in light of Syria's isolation from her neighbors and lack of subversive assets in those countries.

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